

17. A trimming attachment for a lawn maintenance vehicle, the attachment comprising:
a frame member which is integral with the lawn maintenance vehicle;
a pivot arm for inducing lateral motion having first and second ends, the first end of the pivot arm being connected to the frame member at a pivot point;
a motorized trimming means attached to the second end of the pivot arm;
means for automatically adjusting the vertical height of the motorized trimming means;
and
a control lever connected to the pivot arm between the first and second ends.

18. A trimming attachment for a lawn maintenance vehicle, the attachment comprising:
a frame member which is integral with the lawn maintenance vehicle;
a pivot arm for inducing lateral motion having first and second ends, the first end of the pivot arm being connected to the frame member at a pivot point;
a motorized trimming means attached to the second end of the pivot arm;
the pivot arm having first and second portions, the first portion of the pivot arm including the first end of the pivot arm which is connected to the frame member and the second portion of the pivot arm including the second end of the pivot arm to which the motorized trimming means is attached;
the first portion of the pivot arm being attached to the second portion of the pivot arm by a pivoting connection such that the second portion of the pivot arm is allowed to move in the vertical direction; and
a control lever connected to the pivot arm between the first and second ends.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this case. Claims 1-12 and 16-18 have been rejected. Claims 13-15 have been objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim. Claim 1, 6, 13, 17 and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter claimed by the

Applicant as his invention. Claim 16 has been removed from consideration. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the trimming capabilities of the *trimming attachment* extend beyond the physical dimensions of the motorized trimming means. This occurs because the line fed from the spool extends beyond the physical dimensions of the motorized trimming means and allows for trimming of an area larger than the physical shape of the motorized trimming means.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11 and 16 are so similar as to be substantial duplicates. Claim 16 has been removed from consideration.

*wrongly
rejected*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Skovhoj. The Examiner has indicated that Skovhoj discloses a removable frame member at element 16, however, element 16 is actually a drive shaft (col. 2, line 15) and is not a removable frame member. The trimmer in Skovhoj is not connected to a removable frame member as claimed in the instant invention. Instead, the attachment means for the trimmer described in Skovhoj is simply a hole (210) into which a pin (208) on the trimmer is inserted. Skovhoj does not describe or suggest the use of a removable frame member as is claimed in the instant invention. Further, the Examiner states that the Skovhoj trimmer includes a means for automatically adjusting the vertical height of the motorized trimming means. Skovhoj states, at col. 5, lines 45 - 49 that all vertical adjustments are performed manually. Thus, Skovhoj neither anticipates nor renders obvious the instant invention as presently claimed.

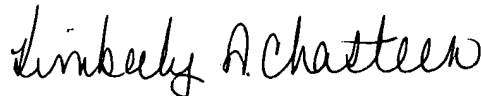
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lane. Independent claims 1, 17 and 18 have been amended to specify that lateral movement is accomplished by the present invention. The Lane reference neither shows nor suggests lateral movement of the trimming attachment described therein. The instant

invention as presently claimed is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the Lane reference.

Claims 13 - 15 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitation of claims 1 and 11 and, as the Examiner has indicated the allowability the subject matter covered by claim 13, the Applicant believes this amendment places claims 13-15 in condition for allowance.

All claims now in the application are deemed patentably distinguishable over the art applied and noted, but not relied upon. Accordingly, allowance of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 26, 2001

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